

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please re-write the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Original) A method for storing and distributing data in a network storage sys-
2 tem having a plurality of devices interconnected with one or more switches, the method
3 comprising the steps of:
4 writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data to a memory associated
5 with a port of one of the one or more switches, the memory being readable by all of the
6 plurality of devices; and
7 reading, by one of the plurality of devices, the set of data from the memory.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of data further comprises:
2 an unique identification of one of the devices; and
3 an address of the one of the devices.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the unique identification of one of
2 the devices further comprises a unique serial number of the device.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the address of one of the devices
2 further comprises a fully qualified network address.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of data further comprises
2 identification of one or more disks that are offline and inaccessible to any of the
3 plurality of devices.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the identification further comprises
2 a world wide name.

1 7. (Currently Amended) [[The method of claim 5, wherein the identification fur-
2 ther comprises]]

3 A method for storing and distributing data in a network storage system having a plurality
4 of devices interconnected with one or more switches, the method comprising the steps of:

5
6 writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data to a memory associated
7 with a port of one of the one or more switches, the memory being readable by all of the
8 plurality of devices;

9
10 reading, by one of the plurality of devices, the set of data from the memory;

11
12 including in the set of data identification of one or more disks that are offline and
13 inaccessible to any of the plurality of devices; and

14

15 including in the set of data a disk identification string, the disk identification
16 string indicating a name of a switch, a port number on the switch, and a disk number.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the memory associated with a port
2 further comprises a Symbolic Port Name field.

1 9. (Original) A network storage system comprising:
2 one or more switches having a plurality of ports, each switch having a memory
3 associated with the port;
4 a plurality of file servers interconnected with the one or more switches;
5 a plurality of disks, each disk of the plurality of disks connected to at least one of the one
6 or more switches; and
7 one of the plurality of file servers writing a set of data to the memory associated
8 with one of the ports of one of the one or more switches.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The network storage system of claim 9 [[5]], wherein
2 the set of data further comprises:
3 a unique identification of one of the devices; and
4 an address of the one of the devices.

1 11. (Original) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the unique identi-
2 fication of one of the devices further comprises an unique serial number.

1 12. (Original) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the address fur-
2 ther comprises a fully qualified network address.

1 13. (Original) A network storage system comprising:
2 one or more switches having a plurality of ports, each switch having a memory
3 associated with the port;
4 a plurality of file servers interconnected with the one or more switches;
5 a plurality of disks, each disk of the plurality of disks connected to at least one of
6 the one or more switches; and
7 one of the plurality of file servers, in response to one of the plurality of disks be-
8 ing offline, writing a identification information to one of the ports of one of the switches.

1 14. (Original) The network storage system of claim 13, wherein the plurality of
2 switches `comprise fibre channel switches operatively interconnected to define a switch-
3 ing fabric.

1 15. (New) The network storage system of claim 13, wherein the memory associ-
2 ated with the port further comprises a Symbolic Port Name field.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium, including program in-
2 structions executing on a file server, for storing and distributing data in a network storage
3 system, the program instructions performing the steps of:
4 writing, by one of the plurality of devices, a set of data to a memory associated
5 with a port of a switch, the memory being readable by all of [[a]] said plurality of de-
6 vices connected to the network storage system.

Please add new claims 17 *et al.* as follows:

1 17. (New) A switch, comprising:

2

3 a first port connected to a server configured as a filer, the first port to transfer data
4 to and receive data from the server;

5

6 a second port connected to a plurality of disk drives, the second port to transfer
7 data to and receive data from the plurality of disk drives;

8

9 a memory in said switch, the memory maintaining a port memory, and a disk
10 drive of the plurality of disk drives writing disk identification information into said port
11 memory upon boot-up of the disk drive, and said port memory accessible to being read by
12 a processor in said switch, whereby a disk drive which fails can be identified by said
13 switch reading said port memory.

1 18. (New) The switch as in claim 17, further comprising:

2 a third port of said switch connected to a second switch, said second switch main-
3 taining a port memory storing identification information of disk drives connected to said
4 second switch, whereby disk drive identification of all disk drives connected to said
5 switch and said second switch is available to a server, said server connected to either said
6 switch or said second switch.

1 19. (New) The switch as in claim 17, wherein the disk identification information
2 further comprises:

3 a disk identification stored in said port memory includes identification of disks
4 which are offline and inaccessible.

1 20. (New) The switch as in claim 17, wherein the disk identification information
2 further comprises:

3 a disk identification string, the disk identification string having a name of a switch
4 to which the disk drive is connected, a port number on the switch, and a disk number.

1 21. (New) The switch as in claim 17, wherein the disk identification information
2 further comprises:

3 a unique serial number of the disk drive.

22. (New) The switch as in claim 17, further comprising:

 said disk drive configured to write status information into said port memory upon
an event, said event changing the status of the disk drive.

1 23. (New) A method for operating a switch, comprising:

2

3 transferring data to and receiving data from a server through a first port connected
4 to a server;

5

6 transferring data to and receiving data from a plurality of disk drives through a
7 second port connected to said plurality of disk drives;

8

9 writing by a disk drive of the plurality of disk drives disk identification informa-
10 tion into a port memory, the port memory maintained in a memory in the switch, said
11 writing upon boot-up of the disk drive, and said port memory accessible to being read by
12 a processor in said switch, whereby a disk drive which fails can be identified by said
13 switch reading said port memory.

1 24. (New) The method as in claim 23, further comprising:

2 reading disk drive identification information maintained in a second switch
3 through a third port of said switch, said third port of said switch connected to said second
4 switch, said second switch maintaining a port memory storing identification information
5 of disk drives connected to said second switch, whereby disk drive identification of all
6 disk drives connected to said switch and said second switch is available to a server, said
7 server connected to either said switch or said second switch.

1 25. (New) The method as in claim 23, further comprising:

2 including identification of disks which are offline and inaccessible in said disk
3 identification information.

1 26. (New) The method as in claim 23, further comprising:
2 including a disk identification string, the disk identification string having a name
3 of a switch to which the disk drive is connected, a port number on the switch, and a disk
4 number in said disk identification information.

1 27. (New) The method as in claim 23, further comprising:
2 including a unique serial number of the disk drive in said disk identification in-
3 formation.

28. The method as in claim 23, further comprising:
writing status information into said port memory by said disk drive upon an event,
said event changing the status of the disk drive.

1 29. (New) A switch, comprising:
2

3 means for transferring data to and receiving data from a server through a first port
4 connected to a server;

5

6 means for transferring data to and receiving data from a plurality of disk drives
7 through a second port connected to said plurality of disk drives;

8

9 means for writing by a disk drive of the plurality of disk drives disk identification
10 information into a port memory, the port memory maintained in a memory in the switch,
11 said writing upon boot-up of the disk drive, and said port memory accessible to being
12 read by a processor in said switch, whereby a disk drive which fails can be identified by
13 said switch reading said port memory.

1 30. (New) The switch as in claim 29, further comprising:

2 means for reading disk drive identification information maintained in a second
3 switch through a third port of said switch, said third port of said switch connected to said
4 second switch, said second switch maintaining a port memory storing identification in-
5 formation of disk drives connected to said second switch, whereby disk drive identifica-
6 tion of all disk drives connected to said switch and said second switch is available to a
7 server, said server connected to either said switch or said second switch.

1 31. (New) The switch as in claim 29, further comprising:

2 means for including identification of disks which are offline and inaccessible in
3 said disk identification information.

1 32. (New) The switch as in claim 29, further comprising:

2 means for including a disk identification string, the disk identification string hav-
3 ing a name of a switch to which the disk drive is connected, a port number on the switch,
4 and a disk number in said disk identification information.

1 33. (New) The switch as in claim 29, further comprising:

2 means for including a unique serial number of the disk drive in said disk identifi-
3 cation information.

34. (New) The switch as in claim 29, further comprising:

means for writing status information into said port memory by said disk drive
upon an event, said event changing the status of the disk drive.

1 35. (New) A computer readable media, comprising:

2 said computer readable media containing instructions for execution on a processor
3 for the practice of a method for operating a switch, comprising:

4
5 transferring data to and receiving data from a server through a first port connected
6 to a server;

7
8 transferring data to and receiving data from a plurality of disk drives through a
9 second port connected to said plurality of disk drives;
10

11 writing by a disk drive of the plurality of disk drives disk identification informa-
12 tion into a port memory, the port memory maintained in a memory in the switch, said
13 writing upon boot-up of the disk drive, and said port memory accessible to being read by
14 a processor in said switch, whereby a disk drive which fails can be identified by said
15 switch reading said port memory.

1 36. (New) Electromagnetic signals propagating on a computer network, compris-
2 ing:

3 said electromagnetic signals carrying instructions for execution on a processor for
4 the practice of a method for operating a switch, comprising:

5
6 transferring data to and receiving data from a server through a first port connected
7 to a server;
8

9 transferring data to and receiving data from a plurality of disk drives through a
10 second port connected to said plurality of disk drives;
11

12 writing by a disk drive of the plurality of disk drives disk identification informa-
13 tion into a port memory, the port memory maintained in a memory in the switch, said
14 writing upon boot-up of the disk drive, and said port memory accessible to being read by
15 a processor in said switch, whereby a disk drive which fails can be identified by said
16 switch reading said port memory.